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MAY 23.

The President, Dr. LEIDY, in the chair.

Forty-four persons present.

On Bacillus anthracis.—Prof. LEIDY stated that Dr. Robert Gladfelter, veterinary surgeon, had submitted to his examination a bottle of blood from a cow. The animal, apparently well on Wednesday, May 10th, and milked the same evening, died the next morning. The cause was not clear but was suspected to be the result of anthrax, charbon, or splenic fever. During the past year a number of cows in the same herd, had died in a similar manner, in Salem Co., N. J. A post-mortem examination was made the following day; and the abdominal viscera were found much congested; especially the spleen, which was gorged with blood. The specimen of blood, obtained from the spleen was examined the next day, Friday. It teemed with Bacteria, the peculiar form, *Bacillus anthracis*, which is now viewed by most competent authorities as the cause of the frightful affection known as anthrax or splenic fever. The Bacilli were actually more numerous than the blood corpuscles, which appeared unchanged. The Bacilli were completely motionless; straight, bent or zigzag filaments, in the latter condition in pairs or more segments. They measured from 0.006 to 0.042 mm. in length; usually from 0.012 to 0.03 mm. Kept for some days in the blood the filaments underwent division into little chains in two, three, or more dumb-bells, which measure about 0.005 mm., or into isolated micrococci-like particles about 0.0015 mm. Many however of the filaments did not resolve themselves into these minute particles, but appeared only to grow in length and divide into segments of about 0.012 mm. in length.

On Enchytræus, Distichopus and their parasites.—Prof. LEIDY remarked that occasionally in lifting a flower-pot or in stirring the earth within, attention is sometimes attracted by the sudden wriggling of a little white worm disturbed from its rest. In the *Archiv für Anatomie*, 1837, Henle has given an elaborate description of the worm and named it *Enchytræus* in reference to its familiar habitation. The little pot worm is common in our vicinity, especially in damp forests under decaying leaves and timber. It was first noticed in 1773 from Denmark by O. F. Müller, and in 1880 from Greenland by Fabricius. It has also been observed in France and Germany; and therefore the little worm appears to extend over the northern parts of Europe and America.

In an earth worm, *Lumbricus*, species undetermined and occurring under logs, in the forests in the vicinity of Philadelphia, I detected another species of the above which may be distinguished as follows.



A. melo,
250 diam.

ANOPLOPHYRA MELO. Oval or ovoid, scarcely twice the length of the breadth, with the narrower pole mucronate; nucleus axial, cylindrical, sigmoid, about two-thirds the length of the body; contractile vesicles usually one, or two, or none, large. Length 0.048 mm. to 0.08 mm., breadth 0.032 to 0.04 mm. Pairs in state of transverse division 0.08 by 0.036 mm. to 0.084 by 0.04 mm. Inhabiting the body cavity of *Lumbricus*?

The Rev. Henry C. McCook, D.D., was elected Vice-President and Jacob Binder was elected Curator to fill vacancies caused by the death of Wm. S. Vaux.

Thomas A. Robinson was elected a member of the Council, to fill the vacancy caused by the election of the Rev. Dr. McCook to the Vice-Presidency.

MAY 30.

The President, Dr. LEIDY, in the chair.

Twenty-eight persons present.

The Yellow Ant with its flocks of Aphis and Coccus.—Prof. LEIDY stated that since he had made a communication, published in the Proceedings of April 10th, 1877, on the habits of the Yellow Ant, from time to time, in seeking for other animals, he had incidentally learned that the species is not only a common one of our vicinity, but also that it was habitual with the ant to care for the same two species of *Aphis* and *Coccus* originally noticed in company with it. The ant workers, of the species *Lasius interjectus*, are of a uniform bright amber color, shining and hairy, and measure about $3\frac{1}{2}$ millimetres long.¹ The *Aphis* is white or pale yellowish and covered with a white waxy secretion, has brownish legs and proboscis, no honey tubes, and is about $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm. long and 2 mm. wide. The *Coccus* is red with some whitish waxy secretion and is from three-fourths to one millimetre and one-half in length.

On the third of May, near Swarthmore College, Del. Co., a nest of the yellow ants was observed beneath a flat stone, about one

¹In the original communication the ant was named *Formica flava*, but the Rev. Dr. McCook has determined it to be as here stated.